

APUA Guidelines on Interaction with Commercial Enterprises¹

Adopted by Board, 4/3/2000

1. Purpose of These Guidelines

To carry out its mission, APUA seeks to create sound partnerships with relevant governmental and private organizations. In developing partnerships with the corporate sector, APUA will maintain its position as an impartial holder of health values and as an objective and scientifically valid source of information on antibiotic use and resistance. The general principles of partnership building are established on the basis of mutual respect, transparency, and shared benefit. All corporate partnerships should contribute to clear health gains and not conflict with the mission and principles in this document.

2. Principles of Collaboration on Projects

APUA collaborates with the private sector through exchanges of information and sponsorship of conferences, research, educational, and annual corporate membership programs. To avoid conflict of interest, real or perceived, APUA will ensure that any APUA recommendations or the establishment of guidelines and recommendations are based on science and evidence, and not on commercial interests. In general, APUA will seek a balance of corporate and non-commercial funding such as governmental and foundation.

In determining suitability of a potential collaboration with an industrial partner, APUA will weigh factors, including:

Are the major products or services of the industry beneficial to public health?

Does the industry engage on a large scale in practices that are negative to public health?

Does the likely public health benefit outweigh any possible harmful practices, products or services?

Is the enterprise compatible with APUA's mission and objectives?

3. Avoiding Conflicts of Interest

Project funding from commercial enterprises will be accepted by APUA on an unrestricted basis only, i.e. APUA will maintain full control over the project design, conduct, analysis and reports.

Considerable caution will be exercised in accepting funding from enterprises that may get direct or indirect final gain interest in the outcome of the project.²

¹ Based on World Health Organization's *Guidelines on Interaction with Commercial Enterprises*.

4. Unspecified General Organizational Support

Subject to the provisions of these Guidelines, commercial enterprises can make unrestricted general grants to APUA. The receipt of such general support is encouraged, provided that:

The donation is not to be used to fund activities which are directly related to the commercial interests of the donor and incompatible with APUA's mission; and / or

The amount of the overall funds to be raised is not expected to be so large that the program would become substantially dependent on such support from a single company, or group of enterprises, for its continued operations. The dependency of the work of the office or department on the support will be evaluated at regular intervals.

5. Funding for Salaries of Staff

It is not acceptable to receive funds designated to support the salary of specific staff or posts from commercial enterprises or other commercial sources where contributions could give rise to a real or perceived conflict of interest in relation to APUA. On the other hand, it may be permissible to receive funds for a project that has a staffing element, as long as the project meets the other standards set forth in these guidelines.

6. Publications

Funds may be accepted from commercial enterprises for meeting the cost of APUA publications and web pages. Such contributions will be transparent and acknowledged as unrestricted grants. In no event should commercial advertisements be placed in APUA publications.

7. Acknowledgements

For reasons of transparency, contributions from commercial enterprises must be publicly acknowledged. The basic and most common approach to acknowledging contributions from commercial enterprises is to insert an acknowledgement in documentation relating to the activity concerned. Contributors are entitled to make reference to donations in their internal official documents, such as corporate annual reports. Anonymous donations from the corporate sector may not be accepted under any circumstances.

8. Joint Meetings

It is acceptable to convene or jointly organize a meeting with trade associations if a conflict of interest is not created. It is not acceptable to co-

² The APUA Board or Executive Committee will review any projects, *which* staff and the President determine may present a conflict of interest.

sponsor, or to jointly organize, a meeting with specific commercial enterprises. However, this does not preclude receipt of unrestricted educational grants.

9. Use of APUA Name/Logo

No commercial company shall be authorized to use the APUA name or logo without specific authorization and in no case for the marketing of its products. The APUA name and logo can be used for non-commercial purposes only with written permission from APUA.

10. Control

APUA must maintain full control over the activity to which a cash, human and/or material contribution relates, including any publicity over the contents of any report of the activity and over whether or not, and when, this report is published or disseminated in any form (e.g. electronically).